

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSE**

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Clearinghouse Rule Number: 06-031			Hearing Location: Madison
Rule Number: Chapter Comm 5			Hearing Date: April 27, 2006
Relating to: Licenses, Certifications and Registrations			
Comments: Oral or Exhibit No.	Presenter, Group Represented, City and State	Comments/Recommendations	Agency Response
Oral Exhibit No. 1	John Mielke Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin, Madison	Is opposed to the removal of qualification requirements to take the commercial electrical inspector exam, Comm 5.62 (3). Believes the qualifications should be retained for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The qualifications are similar to those for the master electrician and if appropriate for the electrician why not for the inspector.• Field experience is invaluable in determine proper installation or recognizing alternative compliance methods.• Field experience provides an understanding to “visualize” appropriate alternatives when making code interpretations. Believes the qualifications make for better inspectors.	The proposed removal of the qualifications to take the commercial electrical inspector exam makes the rules consistent with those for taking the commercial building inspector exam and the commercial plumbing inspector exam. The inspector must pass an exam equivalent to that for a master electrician in order to be certified. The function of the inspector is to facilitate code compliance while statutorily, the electrician is primarily responsible for code compliance.
Oral	David Boetcher International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	Oppose the proposed changes for electrical inspection believing field experience is a necessity for an electrical inspector; code-based certification exam does not give the person the ability to understand electrical installations in the field.	See response to Mielke.
Exhibit No. 2	Wisconsin Fire Protection Coalition: National Fire Sprinkler Association Sprinkler Fitters Local 183 Sprinkler Fitters Local 669	Do not oppose the rule revisions converting the credential terms from 2 years to 4 years. Concerned that credential holders acquire the proper continuing education during the credential term in order to keep up with products and codes affecting the sprinkler industry. Suggested that 12 hours of continuing education be required to be obtained in each of the 2-year period of the 4-year credential term.	The Department will monitor the affect of 4-year credential term and the associated continuing educational obligations in promoting safety in the construction of buildings. The Department has not seen a negative impact with respect to other types of credentials that were previously transitioned to 4-year terms.
Exhibit No. 3	Terry Fameree Association of Electrical Inspectors, Green Bay	Is opposed to the changes deleting the experience requirements to write the commercial electrical inspector test. Provided the qualifications required by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors. Contends this change could result in commercial buildings being wired and inspected by people who have no or little practical field experience electrical construction or codes. Believes that this will jeopardize the quality and safety of electrical installations.	See response to Mielke.